

Salt Mine Is Ideal Refuge

Catacombs Beneath Detroit Could House Nation's Entire Population

DETROIT.—Industrial Detroit, center of defense production, has a huge, ready-made air-raid shelter. Hidden 1,100 feet beneath the busy streets of the nation's fourth city are 50 miles of crystal catacombs which could house the entire population of 1,600,000.

These catacombs—little known to the average Detroiters despite the fact they are located within the city limits and only a stone's throw from key manufacturing plants—serve today as a great salt mine, second largest in the United States.

One vital problem would have to be solved if the mine—a glittering, white-walled mineral passageway converted to defense purposes. Although it is so large that automobiles drive down its corridors and 40-ton power shovels tear giant mounds from its sides, at present there are but two shafts to the depths, and only 85 men descend in the cable elevators each day.

Makes Ideal Shelter.

If additional entrances solved the problem of transporting large numbers of persons into the mines, however, it would make an ideal shelter—one which experts say no high explosives could penetrate. Workers report living conditions would be pleasant below: ventilation is excellent, crystal floor dry, the salt air healthy and the temperature perfect.

The story of this mine and sodium chloride deposit under South Detroit near the Ford River Rouge plant goes back 400,000 years, scientists declare.

"Geologists say this was part of a tropical sea," explains Foreman Norman M. Laidlaw, 34 years in the salt business. "Gradually the water disappeared and salt became increasingly concentrated. When all water evaporated this rock salt deposit was left, evidently in the sea's deepest section."

It was in 1904 that workmen began digging the mine shafts and five years later production began. Today the International Salt company produces 3,500 tons of salt annually—more than 1,000 to 1,800 tons a working day.

Robust Experience.

A visit to the depths provides a fabulous experience. Descending 1,137 feet in an elevator normally used to bring six-ton salt loads to the surface, the visitor comes out in a brightly lighted machine shop cut from solid salt. Rustling workmen in repair equipment as if unaware they are a fifth of a mile below the earth.

Beyond the machine shop are underground corridors lit only by occasional overhead lights. The corridors are blasted from 98.3 per cent pure salt. Their walls are white but for occasional streaks of impurity—calcium sulfate.

Other corridors open at right angles from the main roadway, separated by salt pillars left intact to support the rock and earth above. Down the passageway stretch eight miles of electric railway track, used to carry salt to the cable elevator. Regularly trains loaded with salt run past. Occasionally one of the two automobiles drives past on the salt roadbed, creating an eerie sensation so far under the ground.

Beyond the worked-out portion are sections where production is now under way. There workmen, candle lamps attached to their caps, do the actual mining.

Semibombproof Home Is Set Up in 23 Minutes

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.—Semibombproof houses of three rooms and bath that can be set up in 23 minutes are being demonstrated here to defense housing authorities.

The walls, partitions and roof are prefabricated and trucked to the desired site. There the foundations and floor have already been poured in 15 minutes or so. A huge truck crane lifts the upper pieces into the corners and partition connections a few minutes later.

Church Isn't Dormitory, Dean Tells Congregation

BOSTON.—Dean Edwin J. van Etten of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal) complains that some persons come to the church to get out of the cold, others to eat their lunches and some to find business. Chiding his congregation, the dean said the cathedral "is not primarily a lunch counter and a dormitory."

Grape Berry Moth Seen Menacing Wine Output

LANSING, MICH.—A peril to future production of domestic wine because of the ravages of the grape berry moth is seen by Elmer A. Beamer, Michigan's commissioner of agriculture.

Beamer reported that the moths had destroyed almost 2,000 acres of grapes in Van Buren county, one of the state's largest vineyard areas. Beamer foresees a spread of the pestilence in Michigan.

Say-It-With Flowers New Fashion Theme

Posies Seen in Everything From Hats to Hemlines

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

Fashion is definitely flower-conscious this season. If you have a yen for pretty little fluttering flower bits, if you feel the urge to wear flowers, this is your year!

Not all the glory goes to hats and bougainvillees, for in the jewelry departments, at the button counters, and throughout the print fabric realm the "say-it-with-flowers" sentiment prevails.

In this carnival of flowers that fashion is staging, the flower that is making front page news is the rose. Watch roses! Place a large rose pinned to the enormous face-framing pompadour-revealing brim of your Milan straw or felt hat, or carry a handkerchief with a large rose splashed in one corner.

Roses are everywhere—on party frock pieces, as well as daytime pieces, be they cotton, rayon or silk.

Wear a rose on your lapel; mount a single rose at the front crown of your tiny Gibson sailor so bewitchingly veiled. The newest evening gowns are a single large rose, long stem, foliage and all, worn aslant your bodice or artfully anchored at your waistline.

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